



## News Notes

**Tsunami donations** – People interested in making donations on behalf of the countries affected by the tsunami can visit <http://www.usaid.gov>. Hickam is not accepting any donations.

**Black History Month** – The Hickam African-American Heritage Association is sponsoring their annual luncheon filled with remembrance, celebration and a special tribute from guest speaker Army Spc. (retired) Shoshana Johnson, the first African-American female prisoner of war. The luncheon is Feb. 4 at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club. For ticket information, contact Staff Sgt. Quanda Royal at 449-3974, Senior Airman Tasha Lorthridge at 449-0680 or Senior Master Sgt. Helen Noel at 449-0300.

**Blood drive** – The monthly blood drive is scheduled for Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Hickam Community Center. For more information or to make an appointment, contact Tech. Sgt. Carrie Baker at 449-1680.

**Scholarships** – The Hickam Officers' Spouses' Club awards scholarships that cover tuition, books, room, board and fees at an accredited two or four-year college, university, vocational or technical school. Family members of active-duty Air Force, full-time Hawaii Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel stationed in Hawaii are eligible for these scholarships. Applications are now available at the Hickam Library, thrift shop or education office. Deadline for applications is March 1. Full details on eligibility and requirements may be found in the 2004-2005 HOSC Scholarship Award Plan. For more information e-mail Roseann Bronston at [hosc-scholarship@hotmail.com](mailto:hosc-scholarship@hotmail.com).

**Hickam Redemption Center** – Although the Honolulu Star Bulletin advertised the opening of the Hickam redemption center, it has not been opened yet. Team members are working on final details and hope to open the redemption center soon.

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# AOC activated, help with relief

By 1st Lt. Craig Savage  
15th Airlift Wing  
Public Affairs

For the first time since its inception into the Pacific theater, the Air Operations Center here was activated Dec. 27 when military forces were called to provide relief support to the countries devastated by a tsunami Dec. 26.

The AOC has directed more than 2,000 sorties and 16.2 million pounds of humanitarian relief and aid since Dec. 28.

"The whole process is like a chain extending the hand of relief from the American people in the United States all the way to the folks in need in the countries affected by the tsunami,"

said Maj. Gen. David A. Deptula, commander of Air Force forces and joint forces air component commander.

As the COMAFFOR and the JFACC, General Deptula holds operational control of Air Force forces in the Pacific theater and tactical control of any Navy, Army, and Marine aviation assets made available to him.

The joint air operation includes Navy, Marine Corp and Coast Guard fixed wing aircraft that are tasked by the JFACC to support requirements set by the affected countries.

This is not the first time that General Deptula has performed as the JFACC in a major operation.

As a lieutenant colonel dur-

ing Operation Desert Storm, and after several senior leaders were dismissed from the air targeting planning, General Deptula was able to adapt and achieve success leading the air targeting campaign. Soon, he became the JFACC for operations based out of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

As a brigadier general in 2001, he was the director of the combined air operations center for Operation Enduring Freedom.

"There are some significant differences in the way an AOC works in a force application conflict and this, being a relief effort," said General Deptula. "It has a lot to do with the allocation of forces. There are some

elements of forces, like helicopters for example, that are going to be used in a completely different way in a relief operation than they would be used in an open conflict. In a relief operation we're really running a distribution system."

C-5 Galaxy and C-17 Globemaster aircraft have been providing the intercontinental reach for Operation United Assistance. C-130 medium-lift aircraft deliver the goods to distribution points within the theater and the helicopters are the last piece in the distribution chain to get the goods out to the people in need, said General Deptula.

The process of developing the joint air operations plan,

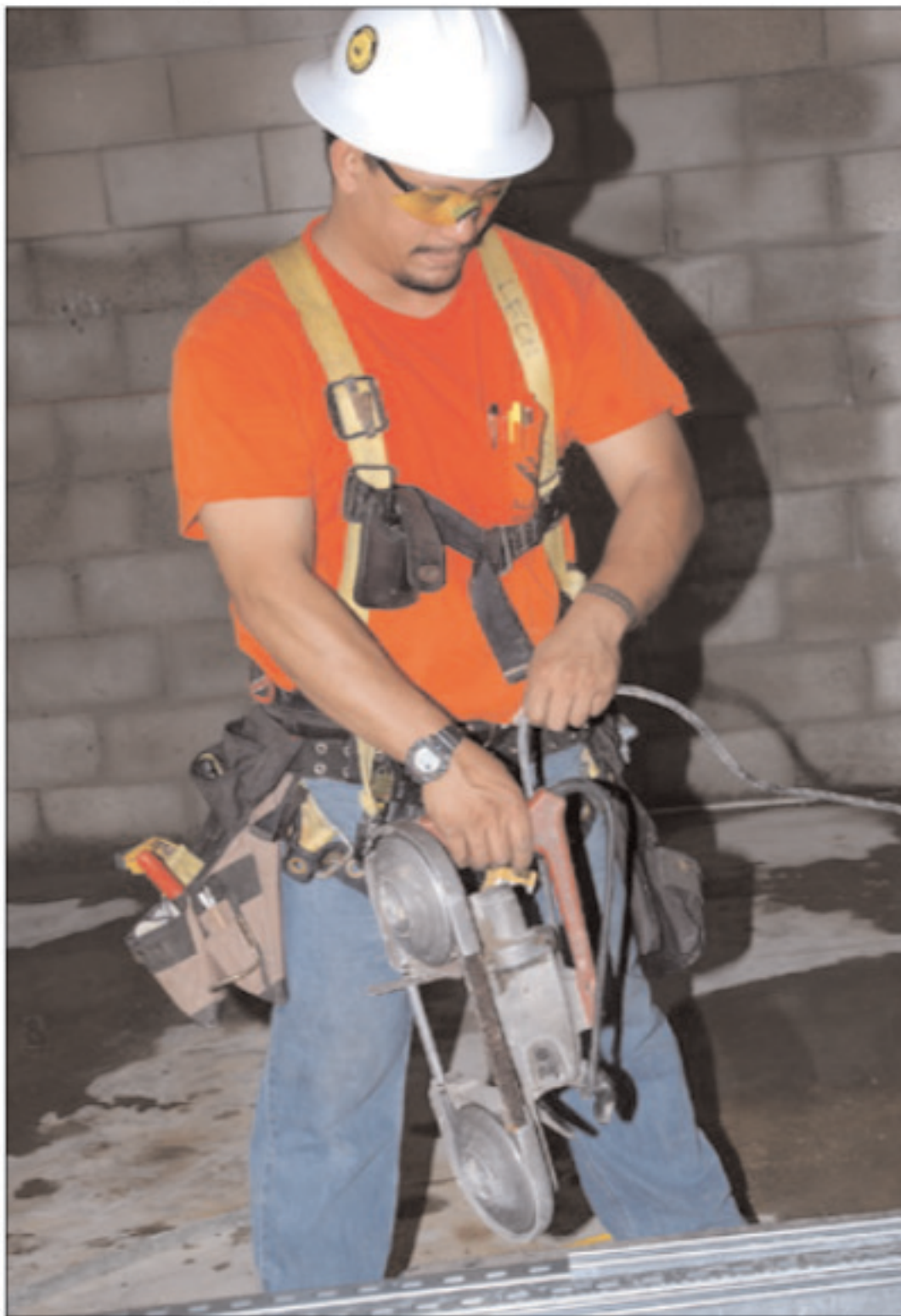
and executing it through an air tasking order, represents the operational art of aerospace warfare. Through this process, the air component commander and his staff integrate all of the available assets into an optimized final product, according to Air Force Doctrine.

"The most important thing is the process that goes behind the ATO in ensuring the unity of effort of all air assets that accomplish the effects that are desired by the joint force commander," said General Deptula.

The latest military operations have shown that no one service can do it alone. The joint operation is becoming a mainstay in today's operations.

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## C-17 campus construction



Top: Sheet metal worker Leon Leehang cuts paneling to be placed inside Hickam's new C-17 flight simulator building. Bottom: Hickam's new flight simulator building starts to take shape as construction continues one of Hickam's new construction projects. Along with the simulator building, a consolidated maintenance complex and squadron operations building are being built on Hickam in support of the upcoming C-17 mission. The construction is scheduled for completion in November. The first C-17s are scheduled to arrive January 2006.

Photos by Mike Dey

## Tax tips

### Taxpayer identification numbers

By Capt. Amina Diehl  
15th Airlift Wing Legal office

*Editor's note: Tax Tips will be a regular feature in the Kukini throughout the tax season.*

Identifying dependents on Federal tax return: In order to list someone as your dependent on your income tax return, you must provide their social security number. If your dependent child or spouse does not have, and is not eligible to get a SSN, you must provide an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, or ITIN (this situation might apply to dependents who are non-US citizens). To obtain an ITIN, you must complete an IRS Form W-7.

The Form W-7 requires documentation substantiating foreign/alien status and true identity for each individual. Also, if you are in the process of legally adopting a U.S. citizen or resident child who does not have a SSN, you can also apply for an Adoption Taxpayer Identification Number (ATIN). You apply for an ATIN by completing IRS Form W-7A.

These forms, and additional instructions, can be downloaded at <http://www.irs.gov>.

Obtaining either an ITIN or ATIN can take some time, so if this situation applies to you, contact the IRS or (808) 539-2099 or [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) immediately to get the process started.

## Hickam member speaks in Minot about Dr. King

By Andrea Johnson  
Minot Daily News

Maj. Christopher Herring, 15th Mission Support Squadron commander, said he used to cringe every year when his teacher played a documentary about the civil rights era.

Maj. Herring, the keynote speaker at a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day ceremony at Minot State University Jan. 13, said he was the only black child in his class. He attended a predominantly white school in New York.

Some of his classmates apologized to him for the things they saw in the civil rights documentary and others made ignorant comments. Maj. Herring said he was self-conscious, but said he also grew up admiring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He recalls practicing Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech in his mirror when no one was looking.

"To me, Dr. King represents the finest qualities of America," Maj. Herring said. He wanted to be like Martin Luther King, the hero, scholar, peace activist, Nobel Peace Prize winner and Baptist preacher whose birthday was celebrated Monday.

King's dream was all people in the United States would reach their potential and would live together as brothers and sisters.

"This is not a black holiday,"

Maj. Herring told the audience. "This is a people's holiday."

By his non-violent pursuit of civil rights for African-Americans, Dr. King showed the country a way to mend its broken fences and to move on rather than destroying the country, the major said. But Dr. King was also a radical and would think there is still much work to be done to reach his dream, he said.

Despite his own success, Herring said he has been harassed by police because of his race and has faced difficulties because he is black. He warned people in the audience against complacency.

Racism is still an issue, he said. "I encourage you young people to be smart. Don't be ignorant (and think) that things don't still happen."

Herring recently received the 2003 Ten Outstanding Young Americans Award and was recognized with a lifetime achievement award by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People national president for his grassroots leadership promoting equal opportunity programs.

Herring said he knew early in his life he wanted to help others with issues of diversity.

"Young people, you have to be committed," he said, "...to being excellent. You have to be committed to doing for others."